

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 8-11 have been withdrawn from examination.

As requested in the previous Response to Office Action, Applicants request confirmation that all the references submitted in the IDS of December 20, 2001 and March 22, 2002 are under the Examiner's consideration. An initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449s submitted with each of the above-mentioned IDSs were not attached to the last Office Action.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-7 and 12 Under 35 U.S. C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-7 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 4,709,991 ("the '991 patent") to Hoshikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,526,818 ("the '818 patent") to Hoshikawa.

The present claims recite a polarized molded article comprising a polyurethane sheet layer or a polyamide sheet layer wherein the "polyamide sheet layer has not been orientation-treated by rubbing." In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the "claim language is directed to a polyamide layer, thus open to whether the layer is oriented or not." However, the claims expressly recite that the polyamide sheet layer has not been orientation-treated by rubbing. As previously explained, the orientation film of the '991 patent is obtained by orientation treatment by rubbing. The polyamide sheet layer, as recited by the present claims, is not orientation treated. The presence or absence of orientation treatment results in a difference in microstructure between the orientation film of the '991 patent and the polyamide sheet layer as recited in the present claims. Specifically, attached herein as Exhibit A is Japanese Patent Publication No. 03-105321, including an English translation thereof that describes that a film which has been subjected to rubbing has a special surface structure (See entire disclosure of JP 03-105321). Therefore, a film which has been subjected to rubbing and a film which has not been subjected to rubbing treatment can be discriminated because both have different structures. As such, the polyamide sheet layer of the present claims is structurally different than the orientation film of the '991 patent. The Examiner has yet to explain why this argument is non-

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persuasive. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present claims are not rendered obvious by the '991 patent in view of the '818 patent.

Further, the present claims recite that the polyamide sheet layer is between about 0.01 and 1.5 millimeters. The orientation film as described in the '991 patent is 5 to 1,000Å and the '818 patent does not appear to describe a polyamide sheet layer having the particular size range as recited in the present claims. An orientation-treated film having thickness between 5 to 1,000Å is a coating film which is imparted to a substrate surface by a coating method. This film can change the optical nature, surface chemical nature, etc. of a substrate, but is very weak in its mechanical natures such as in its strength or elasticity. On the other hand, a polyamide sheet having a thickness of between about 0.01 to 1.5 mm, as recited by the present claims, can be independently made as a film by a casting method or an extrusion method. As such, the film is strong in its mechanical nature, such as in its strength and elasticity. For this reason, the polyamide sheet is used as a "protective sheet" for a polarizer sheet. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the present claims are not rendered obvious by the '991 patent in view of the '818 patent.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections and objections to the present application have been overcome.


The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees or to credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this response to Kenyon & Kenyon's Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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